Docket No.: 117415

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Eric A. MERZ et al.

Application No.: New US Application

Filed: January 8, 2004

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

For:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- 2. The present application was filed or entered the U.S. National Stage of the PCT after June 30, 2003. In accordance with the June 11, 2003, Notice waiving the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), copies of any U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 8, 2004

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Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)				ATTY DOCKET NO. 117415		APPLICATION NO. New US Application			
INFOR	MATIC	ON DISCLOSURE STATEMENT							
(Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANTS Eric A. MERZ et al.					
					FILING DATE January 8, 2004				
		U.S.	PATI	ENT DOCU	MENTS				
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER		DATE	NAME			CLASS	SUB CLASS
	1	4,804,285	02/14/1989 07/14/1992 01/11/1994 10/10/1995 09/26/2000		Bradford				
	2	5,129,746			Epstein				
	3	5,276,970			Wilcox et al.				
	4	5,456,539			Wright et al.				
	5	6,123,473			Guillen et al.				
	6	6,264,298 B1	07/24/2001		Mantel				
	7	6,290,351 B1	09/18/2001		Merz				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
		DOCUMENT NUMBER		DATE	COUNTR	Y		CLASS	SUB CLASS
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)									
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EXAMINER		1			DATE CO	ATE CONSIDERED			
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L	CHICITI	ance and not considered. Include copy (	or mil	o torni willi	near communication to ap	meant.			

Date: January 8, 2004